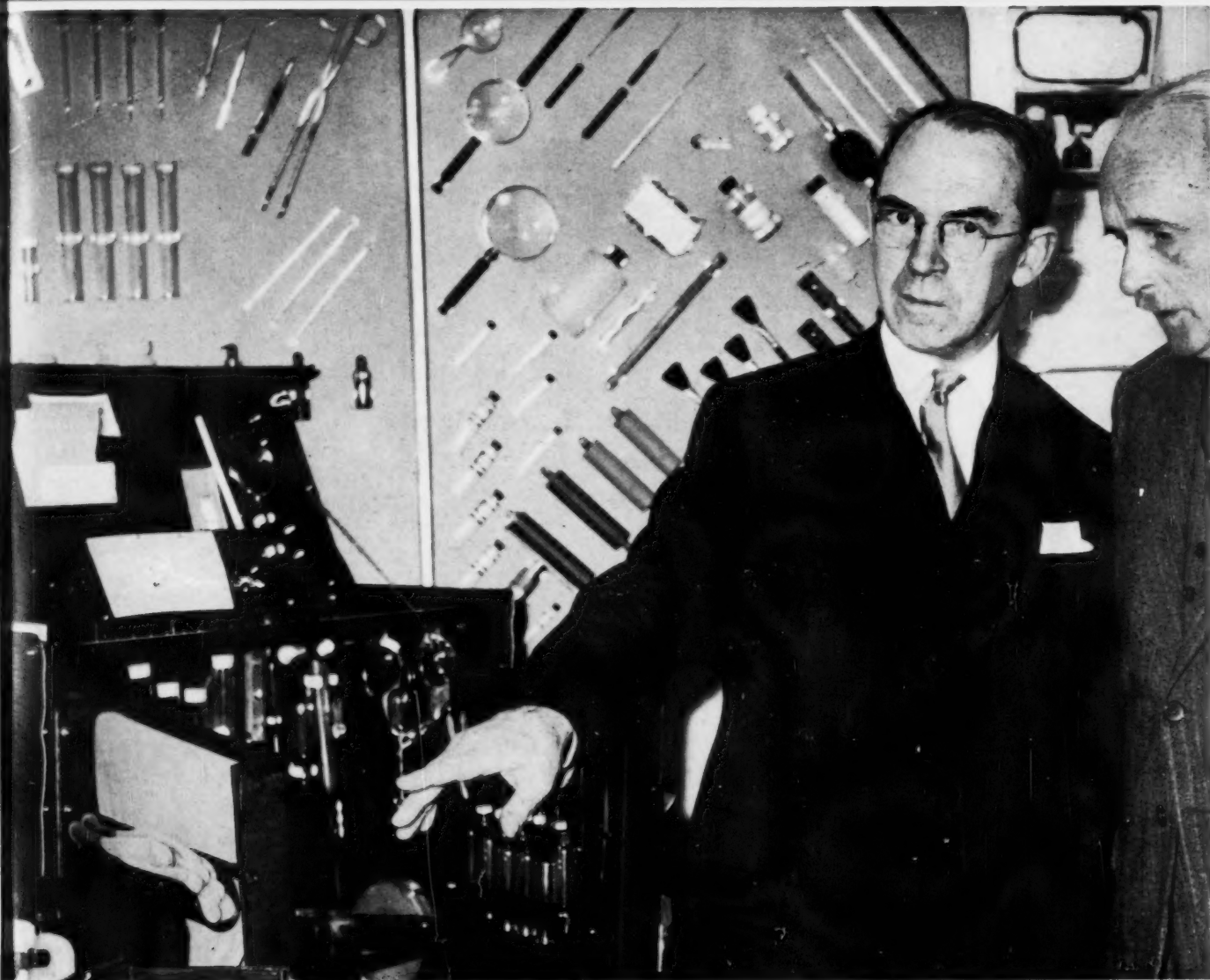


VOL. 2 No. 6 JUNE, 1960

MONTHLY

# SECURITY GAZETTE

Security News - Crime Prevention - Fire Protection - Industrial Safety



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# SECURITY GAZETTE

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## CONTENTS

### Page

- 160** Editorial: Basis of Co-operation
- 161** Gaining the Public's Friendship  
*by R. A. Noble, Chief Constable of Derby*
- 163** Royal Commission Hearing: Police Chiefs on  
Pay Needs
- 164** Security in Supermarkets  
*by R. H. Dawson, Chief Security Officer,  
Anthony Jackson's Foodfare Ltd.*
- 168** Crime Prevention News — Reports on No. 1  
and No. 4 Districts
- 169** Crime Review
- 170** Police Equipment Exhibition 1960: Review  
of Ryton and Coventry Displays
- 174** Technical Information
- 175** Fire News of the Month
- 177** Auchengeich Disaster Report
- 179** In the Courts
- 180** Legal Notes: Proving Malicious Prosecution
- 182** Parliamentary Report: Betting and Crime
- 184** Book Review
- 185** Industrial Police Association: 1,000 Members  
— Formation No. 10 Lancashire Region  
Branch
- 188** Classified Advertisements

**COVER PICTURE:** *A focal point of police and security interest last month was a new venture — the comprehensive exhibition of equipment at Ryton and Coventry. Our picture shows Sir Charles Cunningham, who opened the exhibition, with Sir Jonathan Peel on the right.*

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## Basis of Co-operation

VISITORS to the Police Equipment Exhibition—details of which are given within—must have been impressed by the extremely wide range of technical and general facilities on which police efficiency now rests. It was a good idea on the part of the Association of Chief Police Officers to bring them together and to show the extent to which Forces are not only quick to respond to outside inventions but can also make an imaginative contribution of their own to the solution of their difficulties. This was a high level professional display of the many-sidedness of modern police work and few can have left without gaining valuable lessons. It was, as a whole, an answer to those critics who believe the service has fallen behind in meeting the challenge of our day, for here was proof that, given sufficient quantity of men, the police possess excellent quality of resources to enable them to face up to present demands.

With Mr. Butler's reiteration that crime, fire, and road accidents are the nation's greatest enemies, and with Sir Charles Cunningham's emphasis on the importance of police adaptability, this was an opportune moment for the exhibition to be held. One main aspect to be noted was, in fact, the organisers' breadth of mind in seeking to show the inter-relationship of the many approaches to crime detection and prevention. The point was made in a different way by Sir Charles's reference to the recognition by Forces of "the need for joint efforts to achieve a common objective". Interpol's exhibit helped to give a practical example on the international scale. But it was also gratifying to see a place accorded to the developing security movement which, alongside prevention techniques initiated by Forces throughout the country, represents a vital method of instituting public and industrial "self-help".

This in a sense is the core of the immediate situation. Efficiency tends to spring from public support rather than exist in its own right, for the successful use of techniques depends largely on the morale of the men using them: the greater the confidence existing between police and public, the keener the search becomes for still higher standards. At the same time progress in checking each of the evils publicised by the Home Secretary inevitably rests on co-operation between the experts and the sufferers. No amount of work can bring results unless positive means of education are themselves helping to keep down the size of the

problems. [It was interesting to see in this context that the two sides of investigation and prevention were fairly evenly balanced at Coventry, a sign of the re-orientation of recent years.] And in this sphere the firms whose products and services can prevent trouble starting and the security officers acting in key positions throughout industry and commerce can be of major value. Security knows no single path. It is advanced only by many parties, all doing their bit according to the circumstances of the case. Such indeed seems to be the main lesson of this particular exhibition. It concentrated of course on certain fields, but the demonstration in total should yield much fruit in the years ahead. Displays of this kind tend to start new lines of thought and endeavour rather than round off former stages. Whether it will be followed by others in the future is at the moment an open question, but there is no doubt of the success of the project. Its influence will be felt for some time to come.

## Fresh Achievements

FROM the Industrial Police Association comes the pleasing news that to the original pioneer branch formed some two years ago can now be added another—No. 10 branch which will cover Lancashire, Cheshire, and the northern part of Derbyshire. The founders of the Association have been rightly concerned from the start to ensure that before branches are formed there exist a basic nucleus of members in the area able to impart a real sense of corporate feeling and also evidence of its ability both to attract still more people and to conduct a flourishing activity. It would clearly be fatal for a branch to begin without adequate preparation. Though it is natural enough to recognise potential keenness by establishing a new off-shoot as soon as possible, it is wiser to look ahead and to lay foundations of genuine stability. Even so, perhaps the most remarkable point of the Manchester meeting last month was that it came so comparatively soon in the Association's history, a sign if one be needed of its underlying vitality. The occasion, and the new achievement of 1,000 members, it should be recorded, reflect great credit on the Association and are no more than just reward for all the work put in by its leaders over the past months. We should like to offer our congratulations.

# GAINING THE PUBLIC'S FRIENDSHIP

Theme of Service at Derby

By R. A. Noble, G.M.

In this article the recently appointed Chief Constable of Derby reviews the radical principals he is now introducing to create public support in crime prevention which have already won an excellent response. They are based on his experience as Chief Constable of Burnley where they helped to build up the Force's high reputation.

**M**ANY Police Forces today are under strength, with the result that their existing resources are stretched to the limit; and whilst mechanical and other aids, such as alarm systems and police dogs, may do much to alleviate the position (and their importance should not be overlooked) until the Police Service is adequately financially compensated, the requisite personnel not only for immediate needs, but for future years, will not be forthcoming.

Though the Service as a whole therefore today sets great store in the outcome of the Royal Commission now sitting, the question of combatting crime at the present time must still be given priority in our energies. Already of course the aids we possess—high frequency wireless and scientific examination for example—can and do play their valuable part, but there is one vital point requiring attention. Without a fuller co-operation with the public the prevention and detection of crime will not show any reasonable improvement, at least for the present.

## Place in Police System

The medium of television and radio can do much to give the public that confidence in the Police which is so necessary, and it can also assist in dispelling the old wives' tale of the policeman as a "bogey man." To this end the writer recently made a strong local appeal to the public through the Press and any other medium available, such as the various organisations within the town, for increased co-operation. It has been found that where the public is made to realise and feel that it is an important part of the peace officers' system of this country, and also that its help and assistance is not only necessary but appreciated, there is an upward trend towards better co-operation. Unfortunately, the public as always is most fickle and forgetful and it needs a repeated barrage of reminders to re-educate people in civic responsibility, and indeed in a different attitude of mind generally towards the Police Service.

## Attracting Young People

The adolescent years are the formative ones and any approach through youth clubs, schools, or any other organisation where youth can be made to see the humanitarian side of the Police Service is a tremendous asset. The new headquarters which were built at Burnley some three years ago were indeed visited by thousands of schoolchildren from all over East Lancashire, and these children were given an opportunity to meet and



Mr. Noble

see the "local Bobby" as a human being and as a friend and benefactor. Many scores of letters of appreciation written by these senior schoolchildren resulted, and the writer submits that this was some proof as to the very large scope in youth education from a police point of view. It can be said that the Burnley scheme was an outstanding success but the young child of today has no wish to come and see an old, tumble-down police building. He should, if possible, be invited to see something which is modern, interesting, up-to-date, and attractive. A small sense of civic pride in the local Police Force can be instilled here. Such small beginnings can eventually bear fruit

## 999 Consequences

The Derby appeal some two or three months ago to the public of all ages for more co-operation, including the pointed invitation to call at the Police Station at any time for help, was very well received and brought immediate response. That the subject on which help was needed might not strictly be a police concern mattered little. Surely we could at least advise people, put their minds at ease, and basically make another friend for the Police Service. It is interesting to note that in the first week of this concentrated appeal useful arrests were made from the increasing "999" calls received, including one from a very intelligent and observant teenager.

Unhappily, as yet, Derby has not the impressive buildings or equipment as in Burnley, but already the Watch Committee has agreed to remedy this at the earliest possible moment, and when the proposed extension is completed, the youth of Derby will certainly be given every opportunity to see how their local Police Force "ticks".

## Security of Industry

In approaching the problem of industrial crime, liaison with not only the large firms but with the smaller enterprises is essential. The writer is of the opinion that every police officer is his own best public relations officer. But in this day and age the conduct of public relations from a crime, and more especially crime prevention, point of view, is decidedly a specialised subject. And who can best handle the subject but trained C.I.D. officers? By personal contact and observation they can most usefully advise management on the important facet of crime prevention.

*Continued overleaf*

It is my opinion that a good understanding with each industrial firm whereby an offer can be made to study with them the internal "pilfering" question to mutual advantage should be made from time to time. A personal approach by a competent senior officer can result in a firm becoming much more security conscious, and indeed possibly lead to the appointment of a security officer to look after its own internal arrangements and maintain close liaison with the local Police.

Most of the larger industrial firms are only too ready to co-operate and make such appointments where necessary, and one can always tender advice in the selection and appointment of such responsible officers, if required. The selection of the individuals is of the greatest importance. Their work involves creating good relations with the trade unions locally and the question of a good and happy liaison with the local Police. I do not know of one case where, when a proper appointment was made and a security scheme was in operation, the amount of thieving and pilfering was not drastically reduced. Of course much depends on the type of article manufactured, its accessibility, and the ease or otherwise whereby it can be transported from the premises in question.

I should like to make one final point about the structure of our relationships with the public and industry. Should we not as a Police Service regard ourselves as a sort of commercial undertaking with a duty to give unstinting service to our customers? Efficiency and service indeed must be the keynote. We are the servants and representatives of the local people, and no effort should be spared to educate them, young and old alike, as to just how much a modern and efficient Police Service depends on their every-day assistance. The underlying theme of the whole attitude that the Police should have to the public is: "Can we help you?"



John Cura

This telesnap is of a scene from the current TV series on the work of the Metropolitan Police. It shows a detective about to trail a bank manager in a case involving the arrest of a gang preparing to raid the bank. The well-prepared weekly editions of *Yard* activity are believed to be gaining great public interest.

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Chief and Principal

*Member, Association British Detectives, and  
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Scottish Representative of the  
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## **PREVENTION WEAKENED BY FEW MEN ON BEAT**

**—Sir J. Simpson**

### **Chiefs Seek Extended Increments for P.Cs.**

**M**EMORANDA submitted to the Royal Commission on the Police in London last month, by the Commissioners of the Metropolitan and City of London Forces and by various Standing Joint Committees, came down in favour of improving the economic status of the police constable by extending the scale of increments to cover much longer years of service in the rank.

Sir Joseph Simpson, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Force, gave evidence on the effect of the present manpower deficiency. This stands at 25.4 per cent. The strength a year ago was 16,856, but on a 44 hour week basis it should be 22,676.

The deficiency was most felt on the beat, he said. The principle crime prevention element was therefore drastically weakened, and he was sure that it was in the under-patrolled areas—and all areas were under-patrolled—that lawlessness and disorder were bred. The man on the beat was regarded as the only person who could prevent such crimes as the increasing thefts of and from cars.

#### **Depressing Outlook**

There was not a man in his Force, the Commissioner said, who did not consider that he was underpaid for the demands made upon him and the inconvenience he suffered. A number claimed they were humiliated by the fact that their wives earned as much as they did. He wished to see the rank of constable offer continuous chances of increased reward and a status which would command the respect of the community.

The outlook on the lack of suitable personnel was depressing, Sir Joseph said, and the only relief he could see in the shedding of police functions was in the field of traffic wardens “with some misgivings and reluctance.”

Radio cars and motor cycle police could bring about very little economy, and in some cases mobility had gone beyond the desirable point.

Sir Joseph also pointed out that the lowering of minimum physical requirements to 5 ft. 8 in. was harmful. “There is unfortunately too often a tendency for the small policeman to make up for his lack of physical authority by the tone and volume of his voice.”

#### **£900 After 25 years**

Col. Arthur Young, Commissioner of the City of London Police, suggested a scale for constables beginning at £650 a year and rising to £900 at 25 years’ service, and £1,000 to £1,100 for sergeants. He recommended increments after 15, 20, and 25 years’ service.

#### **“Security Officers Get 35 per cent more”**

Evidence was also given by Lord Stonham on the way in which his factory at Shoreditch had been stripped by burglars because the police had not sufficient men. Crime figures would be drastically reduced, he said, if the police were properly manned.

He thought police pay should be 40 to 50 per cent above current earnings in industry. Some factories, he asserted, had industrial police or security men. They got about 35 per cent more than a top constables’ pay at present.

Lord Stonham said his factory used to be burgled once a week on average. Following police advice, the average has dropped to once a month.

#### **Points From Annual Reports**

##### **Manchester’s Crime Decline**

Though the general tendency for crime to increase continued during the early part of 1959, from May onwards the Manchester figures show a steady decline. There was a final decrease of 1,541 to 22,543.

Mr. John A. McKay, the Chief Constable, believes the reason lies partly in increased police activity in both prevention and detection.

He reports good decreases in breaking offences of 16.84 per cent; in robberies and assault to rob, 27.21 per cent; in thefts from vehicles, machines, etc., 8.58 per cent. The increases were most marked in thefts of vehicles and bicycles and in wounding.

Juvenile cases were responsible for 27 per cent of the detected indictable crimes, an increase of 3 per cent over 1958. The new juvenile cautioning scheme seems to be working well.

##### **Public Response in Shropshire**

An increase in crime of nearly 9 per cent in Shropshire is as such disappointing, says the Chief Constable, Mr. Douglas Osmond, after the check to previous rises in 1958. But he points out that the county’s incidence of crime still compares favourably with the position elsewhere and is maintaining the all-out preventive scheme.

Crime prevention, he states, does not involve high expenditure or earmarking many men. It is a job for all officers and depends upon taking the public into police confidence. The Force has had hundreds of letters of appreciation of this work.

An analysis of the breaking figures shows that while burglary and housebreaking went up by 75 per cent, shop and store breakings decreased—thus reflecting to some degree prevention measures aimed at this second class of property.

# SECURITY IN SUPERMARKETS

## Training the Staff as Watchers

By R. H. Dawson

*Chief Security Officer of Anthony Jackson's Foodfare, Ltd.*

**New forms of retail food and general stores have begun to appear in the main towns of the country which in turn demand ever stricter techniques of security. This article describes how a big London group is seeking to make all the staff into crime prevention assistants.**



*Mr. Dawson*

**P**RIOR to and indeed for several years after the last war, self-service stores were unheard of in this country, although they had been a feature of everyday life in America for a number of years before their introduction here about 1948. The supermarket on the other hand is a much more recent innovation and indeed is only now assuming the character which it is intended to represent to the housewife.

The function of a supermarket is to enable a customer to obtain under one roof practically everything needed by the housewife in the running of her home. Thus under one roof she can find meat, greengrocery, provisions, bread, cakes, ordinary groceries, toilet goods, cigarettes, and confectionery, besides health and beauty preparations, hardware of all kinds, and a large variety of other everyday articles.

All these goods moreover are openly displayed for the customer to select and take to one of the cashiers at the check-out points where she can make her payment.

This method of shopping has gained a good welcome from the general public, and particularly from people who are at work and therefore wish to spend as little time as possible shopping for the goods they require. They do not have to visit half a dozen shops, they can get it all under one roof.

It is also the policy of supermarket operators, and particularly of my firm, to keep the prices of their goods as low as possible and this is an added incentive to the discriminating shopper. The smaller

self-service store or "superette," as we term it, also of course sells a wide range of goods but not in any way to the extent of the large supermarket.

### Scale of Losses

All this necessarily means that the self-service shop and the supermarket are viewed with favour by the would-be thief, whether that person be an experienced shoplifter or someone about to try and get "something-for-nothing" for the first time.

The losses occasioned by a company such as mine from all sources, including shoplifting, may be as much as 1 per cent and therefore it can be seen that over a period in the 25 stores we already have and in others nearing completion, the losses can assume considerable proportions, bearing in mind that a supermarket may take over £10,000 weekly.

A good deal of the loss can be put down to shoplifting itself, although there are a number of other ways by which losses are sustained, as the management of any large store knows, whether it be self-service or otherwise. However, in our particular field of operations, it is recognised that the shoplifter is a real problem and therefore I am taking every possible step to combat this menace.

### Experienced Detectives

The basis of the approach is the work of trained store detectives who are absolutely essential in supermarkets and self-service stores.

I have under my control a number

of highly trained officers who are extremely capable in every respect. They are, first of all, experienced and skilful thief-catchers; secondly, they are well acquainted with the many ruses used by shoplifters who operate in stores such as ours; and thirdly, they are competent in giving evidence and conducting cases before the courts.

The third point is in some ways the most important, especially so because in taking cases before the magistrates courts, they are expected to conduct them in the same way as an experienced C.I.D. Officer. I would say, without hesitation, that the female security staff under my control are equally as efficient in their particular sphere as any woman police officer. In fact, they are so often in the courts that they must of necessity become very conversant with them. They regularly attend most of the London courts and several of the suburban and provincial magistrates courts; also, at times, the County of London Sessions and Quarter Sessions.

### Bringing in the Staff

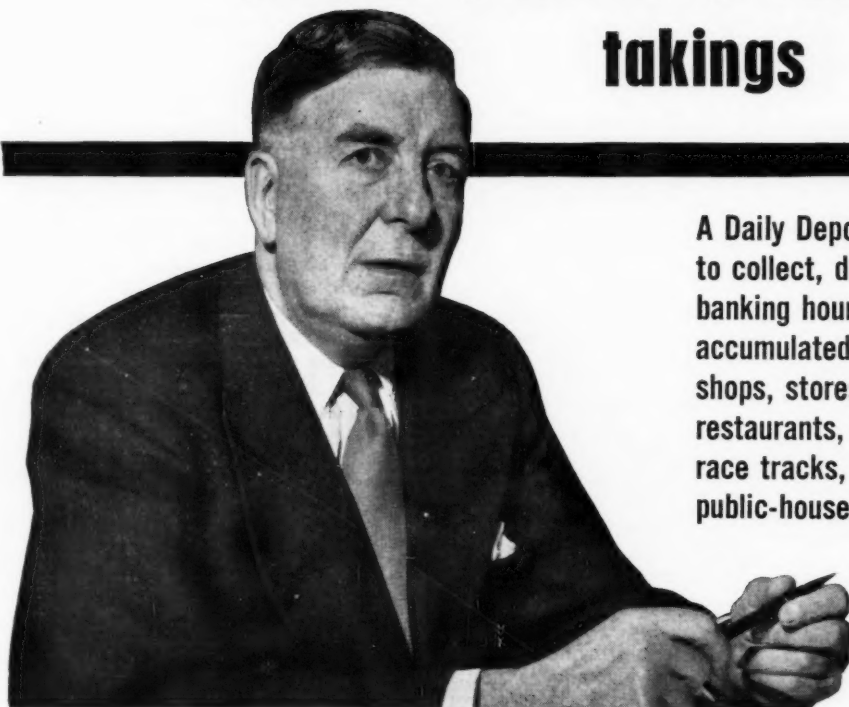
In addition to ensuring that the stores are protected by this security staff, I have introduced in our company something quite new from a security point of view.

This is what I term the Security Training Scheme. In it I hope to enrol the "on the spot" operators of our supermarkets and self-service stores, including the manager and every responsible member of his staff, such as assistant managers,

*Continued on p. 166*

*Security Gazette*

# Let my Security men protect your daily cash takings



**A Daily Deposit Service  
to collect, during and after  
banking hours,  
accumulated cash from  
shops, stores, cinemas,  
restaurants, football clubs,  
race tracks, theatres,  
public-houses, etc.**

SIR PERCY SILLITOE, K.B.E., D.L.  
Late Chief Constable of Sheffield;  
Chief Constable of Glasgow;  
Director-General of M.I.5;  
Director-General of International  
Diamond Security Organisation.

From my lifelong experience of devising and implementing security measures, I know that your daily cash takings are a standing invitation to the kind of thieves who today are more skilful and more ruthless than ever before.

Your own safe is certainly not proof against modern "geli" methods, and journeys to the bank are fraught daily with danger of grievous harm to yourself or to your staff.

The security service my organisation offers guarantees complete safety for your cash and removes from you the heavy moral responsibility of exposing your staff to grave risks. Here's how it works.

#### **The Daily Deposit Service:**

One of our Security vans, armoured against gunfire and ramming, calls on you daily. Security guards enter

your premises, you yourself put your money into Security Express bags and receive a receipt for the cash from the security guard.

During banking hours, the money is paid into the bank. After banking hours, the bags are deposited in our guarded vaults until the banks re-open and are then paid-in.

#### **Low Cost of Security**

The cost of this service is low. Our Contract Rates in Central London can be less than 1d. per pound, per week, including insurance cover for the full amount.

Many business organisations are using Security Express. It offers a simple, safe economical method of guaranteeing complete safety for your daily takings.

Let me send you fuller particulars. Write to me personally:—

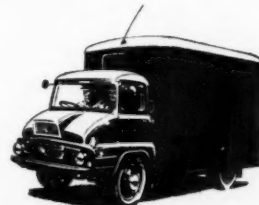
*Sir Percy Sillitoe, K.B.E., D.L., Chairman and Managing Director*



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### **Supermarket Security, Cont.**

trainee managers, departmental managers and others from the cashiers to the ordinary store assistants.

My experience has taught me that the most efficient and successfully run store, particularly from the point of view of losses, is the one where the manager is security minded and encourages his staff to be the same. Thus I am sure that if everyone engaged in the actual running of a store can be trained and encouraged to be store detectives themselves and at all times keep on the lookout for trouble in their store, much will be achieved in preventing and detecting shoplifters.

To this end I am holding classes in our training school to give these on the spot store operators such instruction as will enable them to be Security Officers within their own stores, have ability and confidence in detecting and apprehending shoplifters, and be conversant with the difficult task of attending court and giving evidence in such cases.

### **Range of Shoplifters**

No rule whatsoever can be laid down as to the type of person who may engage in shoplifting. It may be male or female, but generally speaking the latter, because of necessity the majority of persons who shop in stores such as ours are women. Be that as it may, the shoplifter may be young or old, in well-to-do or poor circumstances, well dressed and well spoken or completely the opposite. There is little or nothing which makes them conspicuous to the ordinary person.

It is a regular thing for a person to be arrested for stealing from the stores (probably an article or articles totalling only a few shillings) and to have a large sum of money in their possession. Very rarely in these days is a person driven to committing this type of crime through sheer poverty or need. It is, as so often has been said in our courts, by magistrates and judges, "the achievement of getting something for nothing."

It is also my experience that very few people, particularly women, arrested for shoplifting seem to have any sense of shame or contrition for what they have done, even when appearing before the courts. Only a short time ago, I was present at a

London court when the magistrate remarked to a woman, after fining her for stealing from one of our stores, that unlike many who appeared before him on similar charges, he was pleased to see that at least she appeared to be genuinely sorry for what she had done.

One of the problems of shoplifting is that of the elderly persons, the old age pensioners. They seem to get the idea that if they are caught stealing an article such as a  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of tea, a piece of cheese, or a packet of bacon, they will not be prosecuted, and they definitely seem to try to take advantage of this. As a result, there are occasions when old people are charged—although it may not be entirely to our liking. In many cases they are warned and at times asked not to frequent our stores.

### **100 Ways and Excuses**

The ruses adopted by shoplifters in stores such as ours are far too numerous to mention in detail, but I often say that I am sure someone has already written a book on the subject, which must be a best seller, giving a thousand ways to shoplift and a thousand excuses to make if caught.

Some of the methods of stealing are really ingenious: the small article, such as a lipstick, dropped into a glove or rolled umbrella, the article covered by the handkerchief and then surreptitiously slipped into a pocket or handbag, or the special little handbag under the arm large enough to contain a tin of salmon and half a pound of steak, etc. However, here again there is no hard or fast rule and fresh ruses are being adopted every day. One of my store detectives, only a short time ago,

caught a woman with a specially made bag hanging from a belt around her waist, whilst another caught a man who had cut the inside lining of his overcoat near the side pocket to enable him to remove things from his wire basket and transfer them to his pocket without being seen. In neither case did it work—my girls were too smart for them.

The most common method adopted by the woman shoplifter is to have two shopping bags. She first of all openly puts everything in her wire basket and, at what she thinks opportune moments, slips the article or articles from the wire basket into one of the bags. On arrival at the cash desk, she declares and pays for the goods left in the wire basket, afterwards placing them in her second shopping bag.

It is not possible to go into the excuses that shoplifters, particularly women, make when they are caught, but suffice it to say that they seem to have extraordinarily active and fertile imaginations, and I have been quite satisfied on a number of occasions that they have had the excuse carefully prepared beforehand, in case they were caught.

### **Counter-measures**

It will be seen that this type of crime cannot be easily prevented and that shoplifters themselves, whether they be specialists at the game or people who have got away with one prize and hope to succeed again, or merely those who fall for a sudden temptation, do not fit into simple categories. Circumstances too may vary—from the slack period to the times of peak sales when the floors are packed with customers.

*Continued overleaf*

*The author of this article conducting a training course for the staff in security measures.*



*Security Gazette*



We can rely of course upon certain routine measures with which to assist the store detectives, such as the hidden camera or mirror; and there are also various ruses adopted to deter the would-be shoplifter, for example, advertising within the premises that they are protected by a certain security company or broadcasting that a security officer is required to go to the office. These raise a proper security atmosphere and undoubtedly have their value—no thief likes to think there is even a possibility he or she is being watched.

But the really important thing is to follow the sound police principle—that the best prevention is frequent patrolling by the man on the beat. It follows that the most effective answer to the store thief is an efficient core of detectives backed up by allied "watchers" drawn from all ranks of the assistants. Hence the reason for our staff training system. It is intended to put all members on the alert, so that they do not look upon their job as being merely the handling of goods for customers, and to give them confidence that if they do spot thieving their training has taught them the correct steps to take and the subsequent part they may have to play.

#### Support By the Courts

Once however a shoplifter has been caught the Security Department has to rely on outside sources for the full implementation of its aims. There is no doubt that shoplifting is a social problem, which I do think is not fully appreciated by some courts. But I agree there is more than one interpretation of it and different persons may think their own particular remedy is best. Some magistrates or justices of the peace may therefore consider that heavy fines or, in the case of a person with previous convictions, a prison sentence, is not the answer, but it is my experience that in districts where the courts view this matter with concern and impose heavy fines and occasionally, on the person of previous bad character, a term of imprisonment, shoplifting in our stores has decreased, at least temporarily. And here I should like to emphasise that the Press can be invaluable, for it is the reporting of the court cases which brings the punishments to the attention of the

shopping public and advertises the danger of falling into temptation.

#### Internal Security

This article has been concerned mainly with the primary cause of losses but, as with any industrial security section, we have to keep a careful eye on our other important duty—security from a managerial and staff point of view. Many are the problems which arise in this respect, for the stores contain hundreds of types of attractive or necessary consumer goods, unlike a factory producing say heavy equipment or a limited range of materials, and the purchasing and selling of stock offers inevitably some chance for temptation. These are difficulties which require very delicate handling.

It may be that a manager is not carrying out his duties to the best interests of the company and must

be removed or his services dispensed with, or that persons responsible for the handling of cash, such as cashiers, or persons employed on our fronts where goods are sold and cash received, as in ordinary counter service, are either dishonest or incompetent. Any firm is better off without the services of individuals who have fallen by the way but these are occasions where observation and enquiry are necessary before any definite action can be taken.

Of course there are innumerable methods by which firms *can* be robbed, whatever the type of business, but equally loopholes can be stopped by good security. I certainly do not believe in being too lenient with dishonest staff because in my opinion this only encourages the would-be thief into trusting he will escape the consequences if he is caught.

### G.P.O. SECURITY

#### Office Cleaning Arrangements

Questions of security enter into final decisions by the G.P.O. about the future cleaning of certain offices and departments throughout the country. It has been considering whether it should continue to use its own employees for interior cleaning or whether, in suitable cases, it might be better and more economical to make arrangements with outside firms of contractors to do the work.

Though it has now been decided in principal that, where appropriate, contractors may be used, there has been some hesitancy as to whether they should be employed in buildings containing a sorting office, public counter, or a postal accounts room.

#### Standards of Reliability

Staff representatives have urged that contractors' cleaners should be completely excluded from such buildings on the ground that their employers do not require the same standards of reliability from their staff as does the Post Office.

For analogy they drew attention to the fact that window cleaners are not permitted to clean windows near registered lockers when correspondence is being handled or registered bags are being prepared for despatch.

The Post Office has now decided that while any contractor's cleaners cannot be excluded generally from buildings merely because they contain a sorting office, public counter, or an accounts room, if they are employed, special security precautions will have to be worked out.

### 170,000 FACTORY ACCIDENTS A YEAR

At an accident prevention conference held in Birmingham last month, Mr. A. Lloyd, production director of Bakelite, Ltd., said employers and trade unionists could not be complacent when there were some 170,000 reportable accidents in industry each year.

He considered that better results in the field of factory safety were more likely to be produced by education than legislation.

#### Inspector's Figures

Mr. T. W. McCullough, H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories, said that in the three years from 1957 there were 1,110 adults killed and nearly 500,000 injured in factories. In the same period 22 young people were killed and 30,000 injured.



*The group of officers who attended the Salford Conference. In the centre, front row, is the Chief Constable of Salford, Mr. F. R. Gray, M.B.E. On his right is Chief Inspector Cottam, Chairman, and on his left, Chief Inspector Little, Secretary.*

## Crime Prevention News

### No. 1 DISTRICT LAYS NEW FOUNDATION

#### First Conference Reviews Approach

A total of 47 delegates engaged in the prevention of crime, representing the 23 Forces of No. 1 Police District, recently held their first conference to consider a common programme. The meeting was staged at Salford City Police Headquarters, by kind permission of the Chief Constable, Mr. F. R. Gray, M.B.E.

#### Address by Mr. F. J. Armstrong

The conference was opened by Mr. F. J. Armstrong, C.B.E., Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, and the Chairman of the Home Office Working Group on Crime Prevention.

Mr. Armstrong referred to the setting up of the Home Office Group in 1954, when he said comparatively few forces were taking an active interest in crime prevention. The pendulum had now swung completely round, and he found that all Forces were now interested in this very important aspect of police duty, and that many had appointed specialist officers to perform crime prevention duties.

He said he was a great believer in conferences of specialist officers, where the pooling and exchange of ideas could prove of inestimable value.

Mr. Armstrong stressed the desirability of enlisting the aid of the public in this continual war against the criminal, and also the great need

for the closest liaison between crime prevention officers and the uniform branch.

#### Points of Agenda

When Mr. Armstrong left the conference, Detective Chief Inspector Cottam of Liverpool Police was elected chairman.

The conference agenda was most comprehensive, and dealt with such matters as:

1. Use of the local Press in crime prevention.
2. Preventive measures in relation to unattended vehicles.
3. Liaison with banks and other organisations.
4. Liaison with architects of new housing estates in development areas
5. The value of posters and literature as propaganda agents.

The interest shown by the dele-

gates in discussing the various items was reflected by the realisation late in the afternoon that the proceedings had overshot the allocated time by a period of 1½ hours. The conference was ably presided over by Chief Inspector Cottam, who was also able to give the delegates the value of his six years experience in this type of police work.

During the afternoon the delegates visited the permanent Crime Prevention Exhibition at the City Police Headquarters, where a cross-section of commercial exhibits in the field of security were on display. It was felt by all concerned that the conference had been an overwhelming success, and that the interchange of ideas and methods would have far reaching effects in the future.

The secretary of the conference is Chief Inspector W. J. Little of Lancashire County Police.

### New Drive Against Car thefts

Prevention officers of No. 4 Police District are beginning this month a concerted campaign aimed at reducing the incidence of stolen cars and thefts from cars. A joint publicity and warning programme has been drawn up which it is claimed is the first of its type in England, Scottish Forces having led the way in this sort of co-operative scheme.

With car thefts now running at the rate of one in every nine of crimes reported, the officers decided to make a large-scale attack on the problem, following a conference on the subject. Four colour notices are to be used for display at car parks, garages, public houses, etc., and leaflets will be distributed throughout the Midlands.

## CRIME REVIEW

The chief feature of reports this month is the way gangs have turned to street raids with a comparative lessening in the number of safe attacks. But the Lloyds Bank daylight raid was an ugly sign of underworld tactics.

### £5,000 RAID ON LLOYDS Staff Bound in Day Attack

Three armed men participated in a hold-up of staff at a Park Royal, London, branch of Lloyds Bank on the 21st and escaped with about £5,000. With a daring plan, two of them entered just after opening time when no customers were present, pushed the manager, a clerk, and a woman cashier into the manager's office, tied them up, took the safe keys, and left with the cash in a stolen car.

The manager had adhesive tape placed over his eyes, and the alarm was given when the clerk managed to

get out into the street.

The gang were masked. It was reported that one, dropping his mask, told a women customer who happened to call that the bank was closed and she went away.

#### COUNTER SNATCH

A minor incident concerned a Hackney branch of Barclay's Bank on the 23rd. Here a youth walked up to the counter during the lunch hour and snatched a bundle of 10s. notes, worth some £80. He managed to escape.

### Ambushes Gain Big Hauls £5,000 Taken From Car

In a street raid at Walthamstow at the beginning of the month—obviously well prepared and skilfully carried out—a gang ambushed the car taking wages to the furniture factory of Bluestone and Elvin Ltd. As it entered a cul-de-sac near the premises, on its return from the bank, with £5,000 in the locked boot, it was halted by an apparently stalled van.

A car immediately drew up behind, a man sprang out, forced open the boot, and made off with the cash, being joined by the driver of the van. Both then escaped in a second waiting van. The wage car was carrying the managing director, a driver, and a wage clerk.

#### £3,500 LOST IN COSH ATTACK

A cashier and a messenger, carrying wages worth £3,500 in a leather bag, were viciously beaten with iron bars by a gang at Southwark, London, on the 19th. The attack came just as they were entering the lift in the hall of their firm, Faulkner, Greene & Co. Both had to be taken to hospital.

The cashier attempted to stop the gang's stolen car but they managed to get away with the snatched bag.

#### Wages Car Rammed

Using familiar tactics, a gang also rammed a car at Poplar, London, on the 13th, which was taking cash for the Royal Mail Lines to pay crews of ships in the docks.

Five men, their faces masked with nylon stockings, then jumped out, smashed the car windows with coshes, and made off with the haul of some £3,600.

#### Juveniles On Bank Visits

Large sums were taken on two occasions in London last month from young girl messengers on bank visits. One, aged 18, lost £688 at Walthamstow—a man stepped out of a car as she passed and simply snatched her bag holding garage money.

The other, aged 16, was attacked by two men in an alleyway at Stratford. She lost £133.

#### Night Safe Haul

At Wallasey on the 14th, a salesman visiting the bank in the evening, was attacked and robbed of £400 in notes as he was putting the cash in the bank night safe.

#### £1,000 Seized

A snatch thief attacked the managing director and woman secretary of a firm, Popper & Co., of John Ruskin Street, in the street at Camberwell on the 20th and ran off with a briefcase containing £1,000 in wages. Though struck with an iron bar, they fought back and the thief lost part of his coat and his hat in the struggle.

At Islington on the 23rd, the licensee of the Old Cock Tavern was attacked and robbed of £390 by a gang on his way to the bank.

## G.P.O. LOSSES

There was a nasty attack by a gang armed with a shot gun on a sub-post office at Mychett, near Farnham, Surrey, on the 17th. The postmaster was injured in the face after being struck with the gun as he grappled with the intruders. They escaped with £103 in notes and cash.

Two youths at Deptford earlier in the month used pepper to blind a woman assistant. They snatched a bundle of notes and orders, but the haul was insignificant—only £4.

#### Safe Raids

##### £5,000 IN WAGES

Thieves recently escaped with £5,000 worth of wages from the Wembley premises of Claudgen Ltd., sign makers. First they took away a small safe and found in it a set of keys. They returned to the works and opened the larger safe containing the money.

At the premises of British Uralite Ltd., Higham, Kent, an oxy-acetylene gang, on the 13th, cut open a safe built in the wall and stole £4,000.

A branch store at Walthamstow (which seems a lively area at the moment) of Sainsbury Ltd., the grocery group, was the target of a gang on the 19th. They blew the safe, using bacon to deaden the blast, but the reward was fairly small—£250.

#### Frustration

A gelignite gang attempted unsuccessfully to blow the safe at the Harlow ice cream factory of T. Walls on the 23rd, and would have found nothing even if they had succeeded. The firm uses night safe banking facilities.

#### HOSED WITH PETROL

A gang of young thieves received an unexpected retaliation when they attacked the attendant of an all-night petrol station at Coventry on the 16th. He was hit on the head with a sock filled with sand as he was serving them with petrol, but as the pump kept going he turned it on them. They panicked and made off in the stolen car.

#### Gelignite Cache

Some 400 sticks of gelignite and a large number of detonators were found last month in a disused chalk pit on farm land at Harefield, Middlesex. The explosives were of a type used recently in safe attacks in London and nearby.

C.I.D. officers are satisfied that it was the store of a man who has been supplying safe breakers with explosives. Tests have been carried out at Woolwich Arsenal to establish the source and date of manufacture.



# THE POLICE EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION 1960

## First Display of Apparatus and Methods

**O**RGANISED by the Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales, the Police Equipment Exhibition, 1960, held at Ryton-on-Dunsmore and Coventry City Police Headquarters from 17th-31st May, attracted wide support and was considered to have been an outstanding success.

The exhibition was the first of its kind to be held in the United Kingdom. It grew from a belief by the Chief Police Officers that the moment was opportune for providing Forces with a comprehensive display of modern techniques and methods now available for the detection and prevention of crime and for the efficient administration of police activities.

### Sub-committee Organisation

The Association appointed a sub-committee with representatives from the police districts to take charge of the organisation. Its chairman was Mr. A. A. Muir, Chief Constable of Durham. Mr. N. W. Goodchild, O.B.E., Chief Constable of Wolverhampton, became secretary, though because of his Royal Commission commitments, many of the secretarial duties were handled by Mr. E. W. C. Pendleton, O.B.E., B.E.M., Chief Constable of Coventry.

Deputy Commander N. J. H. Darke, Metropolitan Police, was

made general organiser, and a great deal of the responsibility over the past six months for the basic administration of the exhibition rested with his officers in the Research and Planning Branch at the Yard.

### OPENING DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Because of the number of exhibits brought together, the exhibition was held in two parts. Administrative, traffic, and communications stands were centred at the Police College, Ryton-on-Dunsmore; crime preven-

tion, criminal investigation, and organisation and training, were grouped at the new headquarters of Coventry City Police.

The main opening ceremony was held at Ryton in the morning, being performed there by the Permanent Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, Sir Charles Cunningham, K.B.E., C.B., C.V.O., who visited Coventry in the afternoon.

Other members of the opening party were the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Joseph Simpson, K.B.E.; the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales, Captain Sir Jonathan Peel, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; the Commandant of the Police College, Major General R. W. Jelf, C.B.E.; and the chairman of the organising sub-committee, Mr. A. A. Muir.

The City of Coventry recognised the importance of the exhibition by a lunch given to distinguished guests by the Lord Mayor, following which he and the Lady Mayoress visited exhibits at the City Police Headquarters.

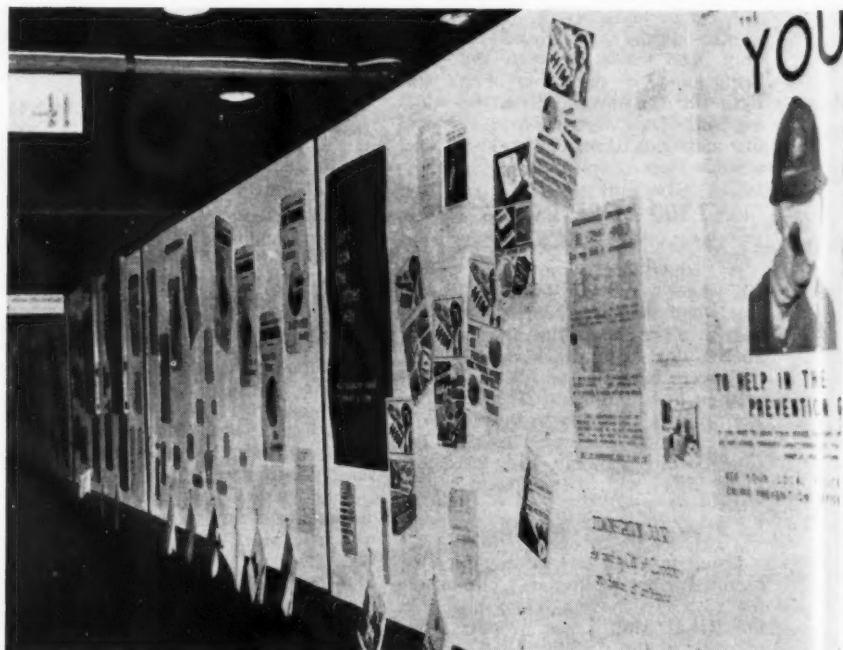
### Traffic and Communications

Four groups of stands at Ryton were devoted to specialised exhibits of equipment for traffic control and communications. These included exhibits of closed circuit TV for special occasions, demonstrated by Pye Ltd., public address systems and R/T control units, information room equipment, motor car radio apparatus, teleprinters, and inter-office communications.

Much attention was given to exhibits showing a full range of equipment used in maintaining mobile police departments—cars and cycles, patrol vehicles, mobile stations, brake testing methods, etc.

The administration group also at Ryton showed specimens of office equipment and processes.

*Part of the crime prevention section showing exhibits by different Forces of their publicity posters, leaflets, and booklets.*





# EFFICIENCY DEPENDS ON ADAPTATION

## Sir Charles Cunningham's Address

**I**N his speech at Ryton on the morning of 17th May, Sir Charles Cunningham referred to the importance of technical advances and methods of co-operation between Forces in raising standards of efficiency.

"We tend to take the efficiency of the police for granted", he said. "We do not always realise that its continuance depends on continuous change and adaptation, both in police methods and in the apparatus of all kinds on which the police rely.

"Recently, for example, communications and transport have improved, much fuller use is being made of such resources as those provided by the forensic science laboratories and, above all, there has been a considerable advance in the technique of co-operation between police forces."

### Measuring Success

*Sir Charles continued:* This process of change and adaptation is, of course, going on everywhere in the modern world. But there is one great difference in this, as in other respects, between the police service and many other forms of organised activity. In industry, for example, it is possible to measure the effectiveness of improved techniques and better organisation in terms of productivity. You know that if you produce more, with the same or a reduced expenditure of effort, your technological advance is all right.

In the police service you cannot measure productivity in this way. It is no doubt a reasonable inference that if you catch a higher proportion of criminals without a material increase in the strength of the police

force, your technical efficiency has increased. But you cannot measure the negative achievement of preventing the commission of crimes; and it is to that very necessary task, no less than the detection of crime, that the efforts of the police—supported by all the technical help it is possible to give—are rightly and increasingly directed.

### Means Available

In 1959 the number of indictable offences known to the police increased by nearly 8 per cent to over 675,000. There is great and understandable concern about this situation, and there is a general determination that the police must be supported in every possible way in their vigorous and constant efforts to see that crime is reduced, and criminals brought to

justice. The modern criminal is no fool. He, too, has profited from technological advances, so the police cannot afford to neglect any of the scientific or other aids which research and ingenuity have devised.

The police problem, I think, has two aspects. The service must achieve a higher degree of administrative efficiency and it must make the fullest use of mechanical and scientific aids. This exhibition illustrates the means available for both these tasks.

### Public Support

But the other problem of the police is one to the solution of which this exhibition can contribute only indirectly. However well organised the police may be, however admirably kept and up-to-date their records, however efficient and ingenious their equipment, they cannot do their job unless the people of this country co-operate with them in doing it.

First, we ought all, in our own affairs, to make the task of the criminal as difficult as we can by looking after our belongings as carefully as possible. There are sections of the exhibition which illustrate ways in which we can do that more effectively. But the public can also help the police, and have indeed a duty to help the police, by bringing to their notice information which is likely to help them either in preventing crime from being committed, or, if they fail, in catching the person responsible for it. I hope, therefore, that one of the indirect benefits of the exhibition will be to convince people that with their help the police can give effective protection to those who need it and make a real impact on the problem of criminal behaviour.

### Joint Efforts

The police service in the United Kingdom is administered locally and the Chief Officer of each Force is an independent authority in the conduct of police operations; but the police service as a whole can of course function efficiently under modern conditions only if there is the closest co-operation between individual Forces both in this country and abroad, and it's one of the more striking and encouraging developments of more recent years, I think, that the need for that national and international co-operation in preventing crime and bringing criminals to justice has been so generally recognised.

This Exhibition is a notable recognition of the need for joint efforts to achieve a common objective and I should like to take the opportunity of congratulating the Association and the exhibition sub-committee on the success of its organisation.



*Mr. R. L. Jackson, C.B.E., Assistant Commissioner, Scotland Yard, left, at the Interpol stand with, l. to r. Sir Jonathan Peel, Sir Charles Cunningham, and the Lady Mayoress of Coventry.*



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## POLICE EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION, Continued



A view of the contribution by the West German Federal Criminal Police Office.

### CRIME PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION

The main floor at Coventry was devoted to exhibits extending over a very wide range of prevention and publicity methods and modern investigation techniques. The prevention side included examples of campaigning by some 20 Forces directed to the public, and also a bureau operated by Salford City Police.

Four stands were provided for burglar alarm systems, crime frustrating equipment, which referred to electronic and mechanical alarms, wage transport, and cash collection, and for grilles, locks, and safes.

#### Organization and Training Methods

One floor at the Coventry section was given over to organisation and training methods, to dogs, uniforms, and miscellaneous needs. The display included many models and photographs of modern headquarters and stations covering Forces throughout the country.

#### Examples from Forces

Throughout the exhibition, to each particular exhibit was added the name of the Force or Forces which had developed the idea or were using it. This was a useful adjunct, indicating coverage and the contribution of Forces to efficiency.

Firms exhibiting in this section included Rely-a-Bell Ltd., Chubb & Sons Ltd., Burgot Rentals Ltd., Auto-Call Co. Ltd., Clement Garratt & Co. Ltd., and Security Products Ltd.

Reference was also given to the Industrial Police Association's radio emergency scheme for cash protection.

The criminal investigation side explored methods of finger and palm printing, specialised photography, laboratory techniques, and crime clearing houses. A separate stand displayed the work of Interpol.

#### HASHISH SEIZING Conference Figures

During a survey of work by the Customs and Excise Department, given at the Customs and Excise Preventive Staff Association Conference at Southport last month, Mr. Bernard Reilly, Inspector General of Waterguard, said there had been a signal rise in the smuggling of hashish or Indian hemp.

In 1959, hashish seized totalled 449 lb., "enough to make 1,400 'reefers' which sell at anything from 2s. 6d. to 10s. each." In the past four years 1,518½ lbs. were seized. "From this 2,126,250 'reefers' would have been made, a loss to the drug traffickers of £215,781 5s."

## Technical Information

### STRONG ROOM DOORS

The two largest strong room doors ever made in Europe have been installed at the head office in Canada of the Bank of Montreal by Chubb & Sons Ltd.

Each door weighs 33 tons, is 10 ft. high, and 3 ft. 6 in. thick and incorporates a solid metal slab 2 ft. deep. The doors have four keyless combination locks and a time lock, with automatic hidden re-locking devices to offset explosive charges.

The company claims that the doors should resist attack for so long that discovery of the effort would seem inevitable, thus achieving one main aim in the science of protection.



A picture of the Chubb strong room door described above.

#### Demonstration of Security TV

Following the issue of details (*Gazette*: May) by Rank Precision Industries Ltd. of their new closed circuit TV system—which they market for Pye Ltd.—a demonstration was given last month in London. The merit of the system is that it gives one security officer control over many cameras installed at key points. He can switch each to cover wide areas as need be, whilst remaining in his protected office linked by phone to the police. The average cost of camera, control unit, and control panel, is about £650.

*Security Gazette*



## SMOKING CLUE TO WAREHOUSE BLAZE

### Severe Damage at Salford

Extensive collapse of the roof and second floor followed a serious fire on 12th April in a furniture warehouse belonging to Brown Bros. & Taylor Ltd., at Cobden Street, Salford.

*A report now received from Chief Officer J. Howe of Salford Fire Brigade states:*

The fire had started at the paint work's end of the first floor in a workroom used by a joiner and french polisher. Smoking was forbidden within the premises but there was ample evidence that illicit smoking did take place, and the supposed cause was returned as "lighted cigarette accidentally left in a workshop at the end of a shift set fire to floor sweepings". The fire spread from the workshop, which had walls of fibreboard, up an open staircase into the second floor and roof.

#### Collapse of Roof

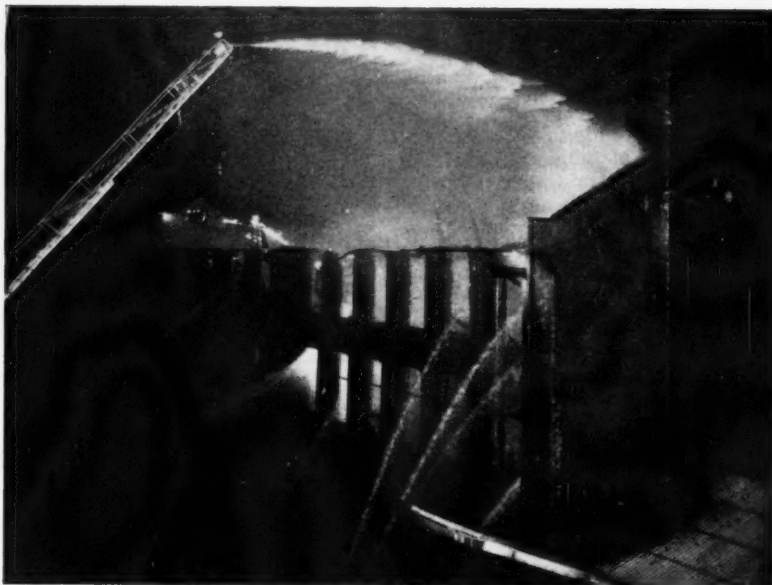
The alarm was received by direct line from Manchester Fire Brigade at 2110 hours. On arrival of the first appliances it was found that the three-storey building was well alight on the two top floors, and at 2113 hours pumps were made ten and turntable ladders two, the additional machines coming from Manchester and Lancashire Brigades.

Shortly after the Brigade reached the scene, the whole roof collapsed into the building.

The premises were one of a number of terraced industrial and commercial buildings adjoining the river. It measured 135 ft. by 40 ft., and was of traditional mill construction with brick walls, timber upper floors and flagged ground floor, timber beams, unprotected cast iron columns, and an open slated roof.

By 2242 hours the Brigade had the fire well under control. Even so the roof, attic, and second floor were severely damaged by fire and collapse, and the first floor was partially damaged. There was also serious damage to the contents by fire and heat.

The warehouse adjoined a paint factory. Danger to it from radiated heat and burning brands was averted.



*Men of Salford Brigade attacking the warehouse fire reported on the left.*

## OUTBREAK AFTER PATROL CHECK

### Short but Hard Fight

A potentially serious fire developed in the heart of the congested industrial and shopping centre of Birmingham on 16th April with an outbreak in a prefabricated pipe warehouse in Bishopsgate. The premises belonged to Cottam and Preedy, Ltd.

One interesting point was that a watchman stated that he had cut off the gas and electricity supplies and carried out a security check at about 1600 hours on the previous day, a Friday. The fire was discovered by a passer-by at 0443 hours on the Saturday who dialled 999.

#### Cause Unknown

A report from Chief Officer A. W. Paramor, O.B.E., says that a careful examination of the building was made to establish the cause but no definite conclusions have yet been established.

*His report continues:*

The building involved, a warehouse and office block of three floors approximately 50 ft. by 60 ft., was found to be completely smoke-

logged on the arrival of the first appliance. Access was gained on the ground floor at the rear of the premises where it was found that a severe fire was in progress on the first floor and that the flames were spreading rapidly up an open staircase to the second floor with the roof alight. Three jets from the street mains were at once brought into use and a "make pumps six" message radioed. The jets were placed in strategic positions—one taken inside the building and an attack made on the fire on the first floor, another working from ladders directed through the windows on to the second floor, and the third operated from the head of a wheeled escape to check the fire spread in the roof. As the reinforcing appliances arrived four more jets, including one from a turntable ladder, were quickly brought into use. The water supplies in the locality are excellent.

The heat and smoke on the affected floors was intense and men

*Continued on p. 176*

## NAPHTHALENE FIRE CAUSED BY ARCING? Steelwork Collapse at Tar Distillery

An intense fire which recently broke out at a tar distillation plant at Caerphilly owned by the National Coal Board caused considerable damage before being brought under control by Glamorgan County Fire Service.

A Fire Prevention Officer's report sent by the Chief Officer, Mr. D. W. Bates, O.B.E., shows three points of interest.

First, though no definite cause has been established, it was ascertained that an armoured electric cable was secured to the elevator used for conveying naphthalene in approximately the position that the fire was first observed and it is considered quite possible that the insulation of this cable may have broken down causing arcing on to the elevator supports which would ignite the naphthalene deposit.

It is understood that the elevator on which the fire started had not been in operation after 1500 hours on the day of the fire, therefore any theory of ignition by metallic sparks or static electricity is eliminated.

It is also understood that no workmen had been employed in the near vicinity of the elevator for some little time prior to the outbreak of the fire so that the possibility of accidental ignition by a naked light is very remote.

### Instantaneous Spread

The fire was first discovered at about 1850 hours by plant workers who saw flames in the elevator which was about four feet from the ground and carried the naphthalene from cooling trays to the plant.



*The scene of destruction at the plant and store.*



*These two pictures show the collapse of the steelwork in the Caerphilly fire.*

*Left: the cooling plant, naphthalene and pitch cooling plant.*

The works siren was sounded and the Glamorgan Brigade called.

The second point was the almost instantaneous spread of the fire along the elevator and into the plant. Two sets of buildings were then involved—those used for accommodating cooling trays, bagging plant, and stores, about 154 feet by 42 feet, of steel frame construction with part open sides and part high walls, the roof being of cement asbestos, and an open sided steel framed building 120 feet by 80 feet used as a cooling plant.

Six pumps were needed to provide water and foam jets, and four pumps for water relay.

Thirdly, the blaze caused the collapse of the structural steelwork in the buildings. About 80 per cent of the cooling plant was severely damaged and collapsed, and there was also great damage to the storage section.

Successful fire fighting prevented the fire spreading to nearby anthracene stores and oil storage tanks.

### R.A.F. WORKSHOPS FIRE

Considerable damage was caused to part of workshops at Halton R.A.F. camp, near Wendover, Bucks., last month after fire broke out during the early hours of the morning.

It was discovered by an R.A.F. policeman who gave the alarm by private telephone to the camp switchboard. The camp fire picket was turned out and Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade was called.

A report received from Chief Fire Officer E. G. Hobbs, O.B.E., shows that the part severely damaged had timber floors (being used as a church and concert hall) and that the roof—which was burned through in this section—was of corrugated iron on timber, being lined with bitumen paper and insulating board.

An acetylene cylinder left in the hall by workmen exploded during the fire.

Four pumps were needed but the fire was under control within an hour.

### Birmingham Fire, cont.

wearing breathing apparatus took over the branches. The Chief Officer was in attendance and after about 40 minutes' concentrated attack with the seven powerful jets, the fire was controlled and held on all sides.

Severe fire, heat, and water damage was caused to about 30 per cent of the structure, fittings, and contents on the first and second floors. Office sections were involved and roof was partly destroyed. The contents of the ground floor were damaged by heat, smoke, and water.

# AUCHENGEICH DISASTER REPORT

## Fan Fire Avertable: Regulations Not Observed: Automatic Devices Recommended

The tragedy at Auchengeich Colliery, Lanarkshire, in which 47 men lost their lives on 18th September, 1959, might have been averted if regulations had been observed for the inspection of an underground fan, in which the fire originated, at the half-hour intervals prescribed as a maximum.

This conclusion is given by Mr. T. A. Rogers, H.M. Chief Inspector of Mines and Quarries, in his report on the disaster presented to Parliament by the Minister of Power on 11th May.

### Frictional Heat

He concludes that the fire at the colliery originated in the balata transmission belt of the electrically driven booster fan in the return airway from No. 2 Pit workings. The fire, he states, was caused by frictional heat generated between the rotating motor pulley and the belt, which had left the fan pulley and jammed near it.

Flames from the belt ignited oil vaporised from the fan shaft bearings and oily deposits in and around the fan, and then spread downwind to ignite roadway timbers.

"By tragic coincidence," he continues, "48 men riding through the return airway were overtaken by smoke containing carbon monoxide and 47 of them were asphyxiated."

### No Regular Arrangement

Mr. Rogers points out that the materials used in the manufacture of balata belting were known to be inflammable, and that the belt which caught fire was not of the 33½ oz. weight ordered by the National Coal Board and failed to satisfy completely some of the tests prescribed by British Standard 2066.

He also notes that the haze which preceded the smoke was not recognised, either by officials or workmen, as a sign of imminent danger.

The NCB, he emphasises, is now operating a system of constant supervision on all underground fans driven by balata belts, pending substitution by safer drives.

He also notes that there had been trouble with the fan on a number of occasions, that the belt which had caught fire on 18th September had been fitted only two days earlier, and that at the time of the fire there were no regular arrangements for looking after the fan during the night-shift. The provisions for the supervision of

the fan were clearly not observed, Mr. Rogers states.

### Automatic Devices

"I have in mind," Mr. Rogers says in regard to fire risks at booster fans, "such precautions as the fitting of automatic devices to give audible alarm at a place constantly attended in the event of over-heating, and automatically operated fire-fighting devices such as water sprinklers or curtains, especially on the downwind side."

"These are matters which call for careful consideration of all the circumstances at any colliery where there is an underground fan which presents a fire hazard."

### Fire-Fighting Arrangements Criticised

Mr. Rogers also states the fire-fighting arrangements at the colliery were inadequate. The deficiency, he adds, did not contribute to loss of life, but in recommending that every colliery manager should review his pit to identify places of high fire risk and ensure that safeguards are readily available, he comments:

"A situation, as at Auchengeich Colliery, in which fire extinguishers are out of order when needed, or in which there is a delay of an hour or

so before water can be applied through hoses to a major fire, cannot be tolerated."

Colliery officials had said that extinguishers had been tampered with on frequent occasions, and that brass fittings had been removed from hoses left underground. They therefore considered it better to keep the hoses intact on the surface, but the inspector points out that the malpractices did not absolve them from their obligations.

### Attitude in Emergency

Considering the actions taken and not taken by officials when the fire broke out, Mr. Rogers states:

"I am satisfied that these officials conceived it to be their duty to get to the fire as quickly as possible and to deal with it safely and expeditiously. Their reaction to the situation, however, is an unfortunate tendency on the part of persons faced with an emergency to concentrate their attention on removing the cause of danger rather than first safeguarding against its possible effects."

"Steps ought to have been taken to remove all men in the upcast pit bottom, even though it was too late to save the men on the train."

## FIRE PRECAUTION APPEAL BY MR. R. A. BUTLER

Fire, crime, and road deaths are our three major enemies, said the Home Secretary, Mr. R. A. Butler, at Kingston last month.

"We must face the fact", he declared, "that about 600 people lose their lives every year as a result of fires in the home and several thousands more receive serious injuries. The estimated figures for losses of property through fire last year, which stood at a record level of £44,000,000, must also give cause for serious concern. I understand the preliminary figures for the first few months of this year do not suggest an improvement."

"The menace of fire and things which could be done to fight it, was not sufficiently recognised by the public. Much has to be done to bring home to everyone, the urgency of the war against fire."

After referring to the work of the

Joint Fire Research Organisation and Fire Prevention Officers, the Home Secretary said: "Most fires in the home could be prevented by fitting a comparatively cheap fire guard. Many heath and forest fires start from cigarette ends. Those terribly dangerous and expensive factory fires are sometimes due to pure carelessness in the clearing-up of potentially inflammable litter or in the maintenance of electrical equipment."

Mr. Butler made special mention of the fire-fighters. "We are all conscious," he said "—the more so because of recent events such as the tragic loss of life in the Glasgow fire—that they are in the front line of the struggle."

The Home Secretary made his appeal when opening Surrey Fire Brigade's new station at Kingston-upon-Thames.



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## MIDLAND BANK CASH AMBUSH CASE

### Hired car driver involved : Prison for Five Men

On 15th March, a hired car used by the Mottingham, South London, branch of the Midland Bank for carrying cash was ambushed by a gang. A van was used to stop the car, and the gang, after attacking the two cashiers and cutting the chains attached between their wrists and suitcases, got away with the bags containing £19,000 in notes and another case holding £500 in cash.

#### Judge's Comments

Arrests were made shortly afterwards, and at the Old Bailey on 12th May five men were sent to prison. The money has not yet been recovered but Sir Gerald Dodson, passing sentence, said it was the court's duty to see that the money would not be enjoyed by them for some considerable time—if at all "for sometimes the proceeds of crime meet with untoward accidents, not being found when wanted." The Judge also remarked: "The law must do all it can in these days to discourage outrages of this kind that are all too frequent."

The men and the sentences were: Arthur Wallace Bulmer, 48, car hire proprietor, Chinbrook Road, Grove Park (six years); Henry Scudder, 45, civil engineering sub-contractor, Oakfield Road, Penge (nine years); George Henry Woolcott, 37, car dealer, Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent (12 years); Frederick George Mogridge, 47,

plumber, Sillwood Street, Lewisham (10 years), and Frederick Wapshott, 25, plumber, Munton Road, Walworth (five years).

#### Driver "Seduced"

The prosecution stated that Bulmer's car had been used for a year by the Bank. He was seduced by the others, being threatened with violence to his wife.

A van was stolen 12 days before the incident, and a Jaguar car was also stolen as a get-away vehicle. But the gang made serious mistakes. First, Woolcott, the ringleader, reconnoitred the scene of the crime in his own car and it was spotted by a schoolboy, being a distinctive red and cream colour. Secondly, two of the gang went back to their abandoned car in Lewisham Park to recover the £500 in cash they had left behind.

It was said for Bulmer in defence that he was asked what seemed to be innocent questions about his work for the Bank. Eventually he succumbed to the terrible threats made to him, after "prolonged moral torture."

Det. Inspector W. Baldock of the Yard's Flying Squad gave details of previous convictions of the other four men. Woolcott had been associating with some of the most active criminals in London.

## WOULD-BE BANK RAIDER'S COURAGE FAILED

### Sub-machine gun effort

An example of the imitative effect bank raids can have was shown in the trial at Yorkshire Spring Assizes of a man aged 24 who pleaded guilty, among other charges, to breaking into an armoury at Catterick Camp and stealing a sub-machine gun and revolver, possessing a fire-arm when office breaking, stealing oxy-acetylene equipment, and stealing car registration plates.

He was William Owen Smith, of Scarborough Street, South Bank, Middlesbrough. He was sent to prison for four years and disqualified from driving for seven years.

The prosecution stated that Smith got into debt in December. He needed money and had read of successful raids on banks.

He started by stealing car number

plates and the guns from Catterick where he was stationed in 1954. He made dummy ammunition and sawed off part of the revolver end. Then on 3rd March he stole a car, changed the plates, went to his bank, and, it was said, cut the alarm.

Next day he went to the bank with the machine gun but his courage failed when he saw the number of people about. Next he chose the Eston Urban Council offices and stole the oxy-acetylene gear. At the offices he was confronted by the clerk. He got into his car and drove off. He was arrested for riding a bicycle without lights.

Mr. Justice Cassels said Smith seemed to be going into training for being a desperate criminal.

## In the Courts

### A TALE OF A FALSE MOUSTACHE

#### Cash Robber Gets Three Years

An extraordinary case was described at Newcastle on 10th May, when a former councillor, James Robinson Blythe, a baker, aged 41, of Norham, was sent to prison for three years for robbing a woman rent collector of £247 and using violence against her.

The prosecution said that Blythe, himself a council tenant, knew the rent collector would be visiting a certain house. He borrowed a chisel, went to a public house where he usually cleaned the windows, and in an outhouse there disguised himself with overalls, his wife's spectacles, and a false moustache.

Then he went to the house and said he wished to read the electricity meter. As the collector was leaving he struck her with the chisel, stole the bag, and returned to the public house where he began to clean the windows, after changing his clothes. Later the bag and overalls were found and Blythe admitted the offence.

The defence said he had no previous convictions. He was married with five children, had been a Boys' Brigade captain, and a Presbyterian worker. At the time of the offences he was being pressed for hire purchase payments.

#### Starting Young

Aged 16 and 14, two brothers were committed to an approved school at Southend-on-Sea juvenile court last month after staging a post office raid. They admitted robbing the elderly postmistress of £10 while armed with .22 rifles, and also stealing six rifles from a shooting gallery.

It was said that one boy kept the postmistress covered while the other threatened her with a rifle butt. When she screamed, one rode off on his bicycle and the other ran away up the street. He was chased by a girl aged 14 who was able to describe them to the police.



## LEGAL NOTES

# Proving Malicious Prosecution

**The decision by a management whether or not to prosecute may well be the final point in efficient security measures. If the case fails, will the company be saddled with a prosecution in reply? This important factor in the approach is reviewed by our legal correspondent.**

**A** MALICIOUS prosecution is an abuse of the process of the court by wrongfully setting the law in motion on a criminal charge.

To be actionable the criminal process must have been without reasonable and probable cause and must have been instituted or carried on maliciously. The plaintiff must prove damage except where the charge endangers his fame or person, in which case damage is implied.

To succeed in an action for damages for malicious prosecution a plaintiff must prove:

- (1) the prosecution by the defendant of a criminal charge against the plaintiff before a tribunal into whose proceedings the civil courts are competent to enquire.
- (2) that the proceedings complained of terminated in his favour, if from their nature they were capable of so terminating.
- (3) that the defendant instituted or carried on such proceedings maliciously.
- (4) that there was an absence of reasonable and probable cause for such proceedings.
- (5) that the plaintiff has suffered damage.

Let us examine further these five points in order.

### Examination of Proofs

The first covers all proceedings in the criminal courts of this country that are likely to be instituted by an industrial firm against any one of its employees.

In the case of the second, unless the criminal proceedings terminated in the favour of the plaintiff, the court hearing the civil action would in effect constitute itself a court of appeal from the criminal court that heard the original charge. Termination in favour of the plaintiff covers the case of a dismissal by the examining justices. It is a reasonable argument that

where an appeal lies from a conviction and no appeal has been made the proceedings have not terminated in his favour, for failure to appeal showed acquiescence in the conviction and was evidence of reasonable and probable cause. A successful appeal would of course be a sufficient termination in the plaintiff's favour, but the conviction, though reversed, might well be evidence on which a judge might find that there was reasonable and probable cause for the prosecution, though it is not conclusive evidence of reasonable and probable cause.

### Question of Malice

On the third point, malice which the plaintiff has to prove is not malice in its criminal sense, such as may be assumed from a wrongful act done intentionally without just cause or excuse, but malice in fact, indicating that the defendant was actuated either by spite or ill will against the plaintiff, or by indirect or improper motives, such as where the defendant's motive was to punish some one in order to deter others.

Furthermore, with regard to malice one can make a comparison between libel and malicious prosecution. A libel is excused if the words complained of were written on a privileged occasion, but if there is express malice the excuse fails and the privilege is no longer a protection. In the case of a malicious prosecution want of reasonable and probable cause does not of itself render the prosecutor liable, but if in such a case malice is also proved an action lies not indeed for the malice but for the annoyance, expense, and disgrace of the groundless prosecution. Even the most express malice does not however render a prosecutor liable so long as there was reasonable and probable cause for the prosecution.

Malice may be implied from the want of reasonable and probable cause, but if the defendant, in prosecuting the plaintiff, honestly believed in his guilt, the jury should not infer malice if the only evidence of it is the absence of reasonable and probable cause. Malice may be inferred where the prosecutor showed a gross ignorance of the law. Where the prosecutor knows that the accused is innocent there is, of course, clear evidence of malice. The mere fact that the defendant was acquitted for want of prosecution does not prove malice.

### "Reasonable and Probable"

The fourth point needs a more detailed consideration. The burden of proof of want of reasonable and probable cause is on the plaintiff and if on the undisputed facts the judge holds that there was reasonable and probable cause there will be no case for the jury and the plaintiff must fail. The question whether the defendant in an action for malicious prosecution had an honest belief that the plaintiff was guilty of the charge for which the prosecution was brought is a question which may be put to the jury. Reasonable and probable cause has been said to be an honest belief in the guilt of the accused based on a full conviction, founded on reasonable grounds, of the existence of a state of circumstances, which, assuming them to be true, would lead any ordinary and cautious man, placed in the position of an accuser, to the conclusion that the person charged was probably guilty of the crime imputed.

In another case it was said that "reasonable cause" would be such as would operate on the mind of a discreet man, and "probable cause" such as would operate on the mind of a reasonable man. There may be an exception to this rule of honest belief, for example where the prosecutor feels that the case is so black against the accused that he must prosecute, although he refuses out of fairness of mind to believe the accused guilty until the court finds him so, or where the prosecutor acts on legal advice that the evidence justifies a prosecution, but this advice must be founded on a fair statement of facts. In general, however, at least when the accused was in fact innocent, belief in his guilt is essential to the existence of reasonable and probable cause, and such belief must, at the date of the prosecution, be based on grounds which, or some of which, are reasonable and arrived at after due enquiry.

### Bona Fide Belief

The presence of reasonable and probable cause does not depend on the *actual* existence, but upon a reasonable *bona fide* belief in the existence of such facts as would justify a prosecution. *It is not required of any prosecutor that he must have tested every possible relevant fact before he takes action; his duty is not to ascertain whether there is a defence, but whether there is reasonable and probable cause for a prosecution.* There may be reasonable and probable cause for preferring a criminal charge though the prosecutor has before him only *prima facie* evidence or such as might not be admissible before a jury, but the omission to sift information which appears to be suspicious may be evidence of the want of reasonable and probable cause. The question is whether the impression produced on the mind of the prosecutor by the facts before him was such as would be produced on the mind, not of a lawyer, but of a discreet and reasonable man.

To establish reasonable and probable cause the facts which constitute it must be known to the prosecutor at the time of the prosecution and it does not matter that subsequently some fact is communicated to the prosecutor which might affect the mind of a reasonable man and may affect the prosecutor's conviction of the guilt of the accused. If, however, in the course of the prosecution something comes to light which shows the prosecution to be groundless there is, it seems, no reasonable or probable cause for continuing the prosecution. Absence of reasonable and probable cause cannot be inferred from the most express malice and the mere innocence of the plaintiff is not *prima facie* proof of its absence.

### Principal and Servant

Finally, the question of damage possibly suffered by the plaintiff. I think it more than probable that any criminal charge brought by an industrial firm against any one would endanger the fame or person of the accused and therefore it would not be incumbent on the plaintiff to prove that he suffered damage.

A master or principal is not liable for a malicious prosecution by his servant or agent, unless the prosecution was within the scope of the servant's or agent's authority, express or implied, or unless there has been a ratification. *No general authority to prosecute can be implied, unless the prosecution of an offender falls*

*within the ordinary scope of a servant's or agent's duties.*

Frequently a prosecution by a servant or agent is preceded by an imprisonment or giving into custody, in which case also, to make the master or principal liable, it must be shown, in the absence of express authority or ratification that the act was within the scope of the servant's or agent's authority, or, as it has sometimes been called, his employment. Numerous cases which have been decided with reference to false imprisonment throw light on the application of this principle to malicious prosecution, since they establish that, although a servant may have implied authority to give into custody for the protection of his master's property or in case of other emergency, authority to give into custody for the mere purpose of vindicating justice will not be implied in the absence of special circumstances. Such as where the manager of a public house gave the plaintiff into custody on a charge of stealing, but such act was not necessary for the protection of his master's property.

An action for malicious prosecution will lie against an incorporated company, such company being liable as a person for malicious prosecution. The ordinary doctrine applies also as to the responsibility of principals acting by agents or servants. Where it is sought to make such a company liable the malice or indirect motive which a plaintiff will have to prove may be that of the servant or agent if it is shown that he was acting within the scope of his employment.

### Search Warrant

An action can also lie where a person falsely and maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause, procures, to the damage of another person, the issue of a search warrant. (The application for a search warrant being granted on an *ex parte* application belongs to the class of proceedings which are incapable of terminating in the plaintiff's favour.) For the purpose however of establishing the absence of reasonable and probable cause, it must be shown that the search has proved fruitless. Where, nevertheless, a person fairly and honestly lays the facts on which he relies and bases his suspicions before a magistrate, and the magistrate thereupon orders the issue of a search warrant he is not liable for the exercise of the magistrate's discretion.

### Conclusion

It will be seen from this survey that a company which may be considering the institution of criminal proceedings has clearly defined principles upon which to base a prosecution, and that a person alleging malicious prosecution has to be able to give convincing proof of *mala fides* on the part of the prosecution. There is thus little cause for a company to fear a retaliatory action provided it is guided in its approach by the aspects noted above, though of course other factors will no doubt help to decide on the particular decision.

From the point of view of the industrial police or security officer, it is clear too that if he takes action which results in a prosecution he is not liable for an action for damages provided he makes due enquiry into the allegation of crime, is satisfied that there is a *prima facie* case to answer, and that in so doing he acted reasonably and without malice.



# BETTING AND CRIME

## M.P.s Critical of New Gambling Laws

**C**RIME and punishment have not been debating subjects in the past few weeks of Parliament but they have been by no means absent from the minds of various M.P.s, and not only at question time. There were the fears, for instance, of those who see in the Government's Gaming and Betting Bill sinister influences leading to further breaches of the law. No specific security issues seem to be raised by the Bill. Indeed, by tidying up the archaic betting laws of the country and "liberalising" them to accord with public opinion and practice, the Bill is put forward as a measure that will take large burdens of enforcement off the shoulders of the police.

### Bets With The Milk

Not everyone, however, seems to be convinced that a new and untried system envisaging milk roundsmen as betting agents and setting up betting shops in place of street corner runners will not bring problems in its train as formidable as some of those which it seeks to abolish. Mr. Paget, one of the lawyers on the Opposition benches, who sits for Northampton, was confident in his prediction that the new Bill would lead to more lawlessness and crime—the sort of situation that had "brought us to the Pen Club and the things that happened there". He did not congratulate the House on its review of the country's contradictory and complex gaming laws; it had, he said, done something incredible, almost impossible—it had made them worse.

But many voices were raised in defence of the Bill, especially its provisions legalising harmless games for money in which millions of people indulged. And, having spent no less than 88 hours in discussing and tinkering with the Bill in committee, the House could really do no less than read it a third time before sending it up to the Lords for further expert examination.

### Corporal Punishment as Deterrent

Corporal punishment and its likely effect on crime was of course, further explored at question time. As a reward for their persistence its advocates secured one admission from the Home Secretary—hitherto suspected of luke-warmness on the subject.

Mr. N. Pannell had asked the Home Secretary on 26th April how many assaults there were on prison officers in England and Wales in 1947, 1957, 1958, and 1959, respectively, in how many cases corporal punishment was recommended, and in how many cases it was confirmed in the respective years.

Mr. Vosper, Under Secretary of State, replied that corporal punishment could only be awarded for a serious assault which led to a charge of gross personal violence. In 1947, there were 12 such awards of which nine were confirmed. In 1957, there were nine, of which six were confirmed, in 1958, there were four, of which none was confirmed, and, in 1959, 10, of which two were confirmed.



### IN PARLIAMENT

The total number of offences charged as assaults, many of which might be trivial, were, for the years 1957-59, 156, 152 and 213.

Later Mr. Pannell asked Mr. Butler whether, in view of the increased number of offences, he would reconsider his recent policy of disallowing the great majority of the awards of corporal punishment. He suggested that the deterrent effect of such punishment was clearly outlined by the figures.

"I think," retorted Mr. Butler, "that in certain circumstances when there are attacks on warders, corporal punishment is a deterrent. In other circumstances I do not think it is." Replying generally to supplementary questions, the Home Secretary said he would certainly consider all cases on their merits on the lines he had previously reported to the House.

Having called for comparative figures of cases of wounding by juveniles, Sir R. Glyn argued that the records showed eight times as many convictions in 1958 as there were in 1938. He urged that this offence had increased faster than any other type of offence and that this habit of wounding and violence, acquired while young, might have caused the increased use of firearms by older people, about which we had heard so much lately, sometimes with fatal results. Since it was obvious that there was at present no form of deterrent which was proving effective, he asked the Home Secretary to consider giving the courts the power where probation had been tried, and failed, to inflict corporal punishment in cases of wounding.

Mr. Vosper said though there might be a slight conflict between the figures given, he would not dissent from the argument advanced that the figures for this offence had increased most rapidly and alarmingly. But, even in 1938 the courts had no power to order whipping for juveniles over the age of 14. Therefore, he did not think it would necessarily be fair to draw any conclusions from the comparison. This was a matter which the Advisory Council on the Treatment of Offenders would consider.

### Compensation to Victims

Mr. Prentice asked the Home Secretary whether he would now give further information as to the date by which he expects to receive the report of the Working Party which was studying the problems of compensating the victims of crimes of personal violence; and whether their report would be published.



Mr. Vosper, who replied, said that on the question when the Working Party would be able to present their report he could add nothing to previous replies. Reports of official Working Parties were prepared for the assistance of Ministers, and it was not the practice to publish them.

Mr. Prentice said he had introduced the Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill with the support of Members on both sides of the House. Would it not save delay if the Government were to support this Bill, give time for it, expedite the work of the Working Party and then, if necessary, introduce Amendments in Committee as a result of the Working Party's findings?

Mr. Vosper said he appreciated Mr. Prentice's interest and anxiety about this matter, but the Working Party found it an intractable problem. They found it no easy matter to solve. He must therefore ask for further time before he produced any report or even agreed with him about his own proposals.

#### Firemen Heroes' Dependents

Mr. Hannan asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he was aware that when the lives of firemen were lost in the course of duty the pension payable to widows was equal to one-third of the deceased husband's wage; and if he would take steps to increase the proportion to one-half.

Mr. Maclay, Secretary of State, said that the widow of a regular fireman killed on duty received a special pension of at least one-third of her husband's average

pensionable pay, including any national insurance award. The Joint Pensions Committee of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council and the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council was looking into the question of firemen's widows' pension and he must await the results of this inquiry before he could consider the matter further.

Mr. Hannan asked the Secretary of State to bear in mind that hitherto pensions and conditions of firemen and police had been looked on as approximating one to the other. Since the widows of policemen killed on duty received a half pension, would the Minister bear that in mind when the report came before him.

Mr. Maclay said he was aware of what Mr. Hannan had said, but he must await the report from the Council.

#### Dangerous Road Cargoes

Mr. Awbery asked the Home Secretary if he was aware of the large quantities of dangerous acids, oils and bulk cement now being carried in road transport tanks and, in view of the special dangers arising out of an accident or collision with these vehicles, if he would introduce legislation to deal with this matter.

Mr. Vosper replied that the question whether additional safety requirements were needed covering the conveyance of dangerous substances by road was kept constantly under review. The Home Office was at present co-operating with the chemical and transport industries in preparing a scheme for the marking of vehicles carrying dangerous substances.

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## BOOK REVIEW

# LESSONS OF A THIEF-CATCHER GIVEN IN EVIDENCE

By Ex-Detective Chief Superintendent John Capstick  
(John Long: 21s.)

AT the age of 16 when his mother was wondering just what path he would take in life, John Capstick had his "bumps" read by the local phrenologist. The verdict pleased him: He would be "either a great detective or a great thief!" Why the expert believed that the shape of the same head could lead to either of these specialist activities is not unfortunately recorded. But one thing that stands out from this account of a career which ended among the Big Five of Scotland Yard is that Mr. Capstick had an undoubted natural bent for the detection and prevention of crime. He rose quickly in the Metropolitan Police—a Force to which fate seems again to have directed him since he came to London intent on becoming a fruit salesman—and in his time served in the Flying Squad and the post-war Ghost Squad, besides taking charge of many murder cases from about 1947 onwards which gained national publicity. Now that he has retired from the Force, he is still engaged on police work as a Chief Security Officer in a major food and store group.

In this book he has produced an exceptionally readable story of the life of a top grade detective which, while introducing a modest and at times amusing insight into personal successes and struggles, constantly emphasises the professional skill, organisation, and power of adaptation that lies behind the unravelling of both major and minor crime. The bulk of it is of course taken up with specific aspects of Mr. Capstick's peak cases—the Carmarthenshire Harries murders, that of little Anne Daveney in Blackburn, or the Edwina Taylor investigation, for instance—coupled with chapters illustrating the intense effort that went into the struggle against black market thefts and the value of the good informer. But he has also taken the opportunity to move beyond reminiscence into the field of positive recommendation, drawing on a vast experience to suggest clear ways in which he believes the police

and especially the detective service can be improved.

It is refreshing at this point to note his admiration for the men of the many Forces outside the capital with which he co-operated—"as shrewd and efficient" as the best of his Metropolitan colleagues. Yet the advice is made strongly that in all murder cases of any difficulty the specialist skill of Scotland Yard should be called upon "automatically", and indeed in the author's experience "the higher the efficiency of the provincial Force the faster the Yard is likely to be called in." How far that will be necessarily true in the future is another question but it is certainly a valid judgment in the cases drawn from these years. Two further suggestions are more generally applicable throughout the country—that since "the Flying Squad is the most under-rated weapon in the Yard's armoury" its strength of men and cars should be doubled, and that the status of the C.I.D. should always be on a level with that of the uniformed branch. One tends to feel that Mr. Capstick's insistence on the need for the very highest standards in C.I.D. training and equipment, if the process of specialisation were taken too far, might result in an unfortunate separation of interest within Forces. Crime prevention and detection are the duty of all officers, not only of one branch. Yet equally he is surely right to ask that the specialists be given from the moment they start the best possible training, treatment and chance of promotion.

### Precautions to Take

One reason for these recommendations is a belief that crime prevention methods have been lagging at least two years behind the criminals and Mr. Capstick moves on to a review of prevention techniques which should gain the attention of both his police and lay readers. Here is a digest of them:

**Gelignite attacks:** The source of all explosives should be sealed off. By the use of a secret chemical dye in all regions of the country, ex-



Mr. J. Capstick

plosives could be traced to the point of origin and the necessary counter-action taken in the particular quarry or other industrial site. It is from these places more than Government stores that the gangs get their materials.

**Steel cutting apparatus:** Action should be taken to control the supply of oxy-acetylene gear and to safeguard it when not in industrial use. It should not be left lying around at night and the burner heads should be carefully locked up.

**Watchmen:** It is false economy to employ old and retired men who are usually poorly paid. The call today is for alert, active, physically fit men, paid an attractive wage to prevent any possible chance of collusion. Men of this type would cut out one constant worry to the police.

**Visits by staff to premises:** Taken alone this is a feeble precaution and is unfair to employees. Safe breaking gangs are liable to turn ugly if surprised on the job.

**Cash collection from banks:** Firms must provide an extremely strong escort on all stages of the journey. Nowadays it is lunacy to send an unaccompanied woman or elderly cashier. Party drill to keep watch from inside the car forwards and to the rear is essential to spot any shadowing. Gangs watch routes several times before an attack, and suspicious following should be reported. The average time for an attack is five to eight seconds and gangs will sheer off if they see precautions are being taken.

*Continued on page 187*

*Security Gazette*

## INDUSTRIAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

### Membership now 1,000: New Branch set up in North-West

**THE Industrial Police Association—the industrial police' and security officers' own professional body which was founded in Birmingham in July, 1958—has reached a membership of 1,000, and is growing in strength every day.**

It appears that many members of the profession who, since the Association's formation, have been doubtful or even suspicious of the aims and objects, are now in retrospect prepared to accept the sincerity of purpose and the professional integrity of those holding office in the Association.

#### Reasons for Joining

The Association's record of achievement in the field of training, the setting up of an Emergency Radio

Communications Scheme in Birmingham, the establishment of a service through which individual members may seek advice on professional problems, and the provision and maintaining of a very close liaison with regular police officers and security organisations in this country and overseas, are but a few of the reasons why still more and more industrial police and security officers are realising that it is their duty and indeed their privilege to take up membership.

Born as it was in 1958, the Association is still a struggling youngster, but it is a healthy child and it is growing up fast with the aid of good parents and in a sound environment.

### MANCHESTER MEETING OF No. 10 REGION BRANCH

**IT** is with much pride and pleasure that we are able to announce, following many months of patient negotiations, the setting up of a No. 10 Lancashire Region Branch of the Association, covering the following areas:

The whole of the County of Lancashire.

The whole of the County of Cheshire.

That portion of the County of Derbyshire north of a line from Congleton to Sheffield.

The Inaugural General Meeting was held at the Manchester City Police Buildings, Stockport Road, Longsight, Manchester, on Friday, 20th May, where all the necessary facilities were provided free of cost by the Chief Constable of Manchester, Mr. J. A. McKay. The meeting was attended by Mr. D. V. Young, M.B.E., Chairman of the Midland Region Branch of the Association, Mr. T. G. Sanders, Honorary Treasurer of the Midland Region Branch, and by 70 members of the industrial police and security profession between them representing the 193 members of the Association in the No. 10 Lancashire Region.

#### Tribute to Police

In his address of welcome at the opening, Mr. D. V. Young said that history was being made in Manchester at their meeting, and it was his belief that future members of the industrial police profession in the North-Western region would have reason to remember with pride the 20th May, 1960, the date on which this branch was formed.

Mr. Young thanked all his colleagues in the Lancashire area for the very valuable assistance and co-operation which they had given him during the past few months during which negotiations had been proceeding towards setting up the branch, and he paid par-

ticular tribute to the very kind help which had been accorded to the Association by the Chief Constable of Manchester and his officers. Mr. McKay's kindness and readiness to help the Association in any way he could was, Mr. Young said, typical of the interest, support, and encouragement which had been shown by regular police officers in all parts of the country, especially in Birmingham.

#### Election of Officers

The business of the meeting proceeded, and the following officers were elected:

##### Chairman:

Mr. A. D. Bullock, 8 Pitville Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18.

##### Honorary Secretary:

Mr. A. Parker, 20 Balmoral Avenue, Leyland, Nr. Preston, Lancashire.

##### Honorary Treasurer:

Mr. E. J. DeWilde, 110 Fishwick Parade, Preston, Lancashire.

##### Members of the Council:

Mr. J. O. Jameson, 23 Winchester Road, Salford, 6, Lancashire.

Mr. H. J. Edwards, 37 Padstow Road, Childwall, Liverpool, 16.

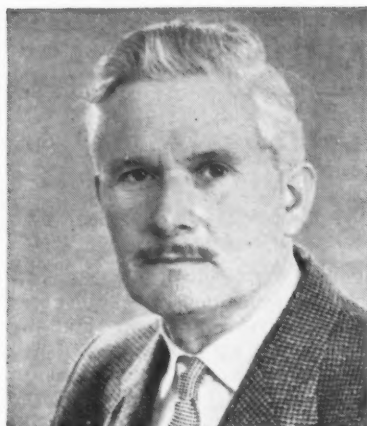
Mr. S. Smith, G.I.FireE., The Birches, Birch Drive, Bramhall Moor Lane, Hazel Grove, Cheshire.

Mr. A. Robinson, 17 Bivel Street, Burnley, Lancashire.

Mr. R. Mabbott, 6 Clough Road, Blackley, Manchester, 9.

Mr. R. Smith, 26 Church Street, Read, Nr. Burnley, Lancashire.





**Mr. A. D. Bullock**  
*Chairman*

Born in 1908 at Newport, Monmouthshire, the first chairman of the new No. 10 Region Branch, served for 25 years in the Liverpool City Police Force, before retiring in 1955 to become Chief Security Officer at the Dunlop Rubber Company's factory at Speke, Liverpool, where he is still engaged.

Mr. A. D. Bullock joined the Force in May, 1930, and served mainly in A, G, and F Divisions. He had plain clothes and C.I.D. experience, gaining several commendations. He attended the college at Ryton-on-Dunsmore in 1953 and retired with the rank of Inspector.



**Mr. A. Parker**  
*Hon. Secretary*

The first Honorary Secretary of the Branch is Chief Security and Fire Officer at B.T.R. Industries Ltd., Leyland, Lancashire, thermoplastic and rubber manufacturers, where he was appointed in 1954.

Mr. Parker was born at Sheerness in 1900 and had a spell in the Mercantile Marines. Then he joined the R.A.F. in 1923 and served until 1954. He has travelled widely during his career before settling in Lancashire in 1950. He joined the Industrial Police Association in February, 1959.

★ ★ ★



**Mr. E. J. DeWilde**  
*Hon. Treasurer*

Before joining Leyland Motors Ltd., at Leyland, Lancashire, as the company's first Security Officer, Mr. E. J. DeWilde, who was elected to the post of Honorary Treasurer, had nine years service with Preston Borough Police. He has been with the firm for 31 years, and was appointed Chief Security Officer in 1940.

During the war Mr. DeWilde was P.A.D. Officer and Security Officer. He was responsible for the security arrangements when the works were visited by King George V and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

## **LP.A. News, Continued**

### **Chairman's First Address**

On being elected to the chair, Mr. Bullock addressed the meeting.

He expressed his gratitude to the members for the confidence which they had shown in him by electing him as their chairman, and he pledged himself to do all in his power to justify this confidence. Mr. Bullock said that the No. 10 Lancashire Branch would fill a very long-felt need in the North-West, where the activities of the Association would be of very great interest and value to the ever-growing profession of industrial security. Supported by his colleagues on the council, Mr. Bullock promised to do his best to establish and to develop the branch, and he expressed the hope that many more members of the industrial security profession in the North-West would join and support the Association.

He concluded his remarks by expressing his own and his colleagues' very deep appreciation of the help and encouragement which had been given by Mr. D. V. Young and the members of the Midland Regional Council, and he added his own appreciation of the kind help and assistance which had been given by the Chief Constable of Manchester and also the manage-

ment of Leyland Motors Ltd., who had provided hospitality for the first Lancashire meeting.

The meeting concluded with a very warm round of applause from all the members, who then spent an enjoyable hour meeting and getting to know each other.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE**

**Will members and readers please note that all future Association correspondence should be addressed as follows:**

*From:*

**No. 10 Lancashire Region**

i.e. The Counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, and Derbyshire (North of a line from Congleton to Sheffield).

*To:*

Mr. A. D. Bullock, Chairman, The Industrial Police Association, No. 10 Lancashire Region, 8 Pitville Avenue, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, 18.

*From:*

**No. 9 Midland Region, and all other regions of the British Isles, except No. 10 Region.**

*To:*

Mr. D. V. Young, M.B.E., Chairman, The Industrial Police Association, No. 9 Midland Region, 20 Wycome Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.



#### Book Review cont.

**Mail bag robberies:** Specially constructed steel compartments would help to obviate thefts. They would be heavily locked like a safe by senior officials. On the train's arrival currency bags need to be immediately taken under guard to a place of safety.

**Night safes:** Banks should build them in the front of buildings, not on side walls, and brilliantly illuminate them. *Shopkeepers*, etc., might convert the takings each day into a P.O. money order and mail it to the bank.

**Lorry raids:** Far too many firms think only of insuring goods against theft instead of ensuring the property is not stolen. Security devices can be easily fitted and manufacturers should install them as standard.

Since Mr. Capstick wrote his book the security movement in this country has made much solid progress and no doubt he will be as pleased as any one at the steps already taken. Even so it is through such a volume as this that public attention is focused on ways in which the general security of the country can be improved.

#### NEW P.R.O.

Securicor Ltd. has appointed Mrs. Vivian Kershaw as the group's Public Relations Officer. Mrs. Kershaw, who is a member of the London Regional Committee of the British Association of Industrial Editors and an Associate of the Institute of Public Relations, will also be responsible for editing the group's house journal *Security*. She will operate from Securicor's headquarters at Old Swan House, Chelsea Embankment.

Sir Philip Margetson, a director of the Company, and formerly an Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard, recently gave a party to welcome Mrs. Kershaw, which was attended by business and press friends.

#### Securicor Guard Jewel Exhibition

Protection of an exhibition of modern jewellery worth over £1,000,000 at Garrards in Regent Street, London, was entrusted last month to Securicor Ltd. One set of jewels was worth £43,000 and one ring alone £19,000.

## £180,000 JEWEL THEFT

#### Film Star's Loss

One of the biggest individual jewellery robberies of recent years in Britain was carried out on the evening of 28th May, when a thief stole personal jewellery estimated to be worth £180,000 from the bedroom of Miss Sophia Loren, the Italian actress, at Elstree.

This robbery compares in size with the theft of Lady Docker's jewels worth £150,000 from her car in March, 1959. It follows a number of big thefts of personal jewellery in the London area recently. Jewels worth £5,000 were taken from Mr. Gregory Peck's Ascot home on the 25th, and some weeks ago another series of raids brought a haul of £40,000.

Miss Loren kept all her jewels in one case which was left in a locked drawer in her room. She discovered the theft when she returned home at 11 p.m.

Members of the staff were in the house between 8.30 p.m., when the room was in order, and this time.



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## P.L.A. POLICE CEREMONY Surrey Docks Division New H.Q.

A new Divisional Headquarters for the Surrey Docks Division of the Port of London Authority Police Force was formally opened on 5th May, the ceremony being performed by Lord Cottesloe, T.D., D.L., the vice-Chairman of the Authority, accompanied by members of the Board and by the General Manager, Sir Leslie Ford, O.B.E.

Lord Cottesloe was met on arrival by the Chief Police Officer, Mr. T. J. Oliver, O.B.E., and inspected a parade of 100 Officers, Sergeants and Constables drawn from all divisions of the Force. After taking the salute as the parade marched past under the command of Senior Superintendent H. Hartley, he was shown round the new premises by the Chief Police Officer, accompanied by Superintendent F. Rushman, in charge of the Division.

### Standard of Efficiency

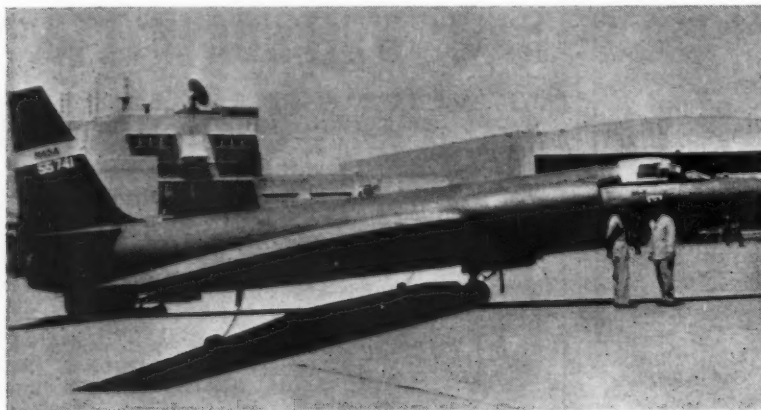
Lord Cottesloe addressed a gathering of 150 members of the Force and complimented those who had taken part in the parade on their smart turn-out and fine bearing. He also referred to the high standard of efficiency which the Force had attained in all directions. He assured the Force that the Board would always have the keenest interest in all their activities and would do everything possible to provide them with all they needed to carry out their duties efficiently. He formally declared the premises

open and then proceeded to present a Police Long Service Medal to Inspector W. J. Long and various other awards which had been gained by members of the Force.

Thanking Lord Cottesloe for performing the opening ceremony and for carrying out the inspection, the Chief Police Officer referred to the kindly interest shown by the Board in all police matters and thanked the Board for providing such a fine station to replace the old unsatisfactory one and the General Manager for helping the Police to acquire the premises. He also paid tribute to the excellent way in which the conversion had been carried out by the Chief Engineer's Department. The new premises could now, he said, be regarded as the best of the Force's five Divisional Stations.

### Details of Building

At a cost of £7,000, the new station has been formed out of an old building known as the Grain Office which recently became vacant. It contains a large muster room with charts and maps, a large strong room, and administrative and C.I.D. offices. Each man has his own metal wardrobe in a changing room, and there are adequate kitchens and dining rooms. At the rear of the ground floor are excellent club premises with seating for 200, a bar, and cloak rooms. The whole interior, decorated in pastel colours, presents a pleasing and modern appearance.



A U-2 aircraft of the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration. It was this type of plane which was reported by the Russians to have been shot down while on a reconnaissance flight from Pakistan to Norway on 1st May. Since then admissions by Washington of its espionage function to photograph installations contributed to Soviet policy at the recent Summit conference. It has been reported that three other U-2s have been lost in flight.

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